THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the motion for consideration regarding the third Bill to vote. The quesion is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 8 were added to the Bill. Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Madam, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be returned."

The motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kalpnath Rai, now you can tell him to go. We will now take up the much-awaited Bills on Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament, etc.

THE SALARY, ALLOWANCES AND PENSION OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1985

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): Sir, I beg to move:—

"That the Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954 as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Madam, I will just take one minute.

As you are aware, the Lok Sabha, in its sitting held yesterday, passed the Salary, Allowances and pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 1985. I may inform you that the Bill was adopted in that House unanimously without discussion. Hon. Members would recall that the Act was last amended in 1983. Taking into account the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament, it is proposed to amend the provisions of the Salary. Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954.

The broad fetures of the present amending Bill are to increase the salary of Members from Rs. 750/- to Rs. 1,000/-, extend the facility of 8 to and fro intermediate journeys by air to 16 single air journeys throughout the year and to increase the amount of minimum pension to ex-MPs from Rs. 300/- to Rs. 500/- without the maximum ceiling of pension payable to ex-MPs. This has been done with the view to give due recognition to long years of service by the Members of Parliament. Henceforward there would be no seiling on the maximum pension payable to the ex-Members of Parliament.

It is also proposed to cover ex-Members of the Constituent Assembly by giving them minimum pension of Rs. 500- per month. It has been a long-standing demand from various ouarters to give due recognition to ex-Members of the Constituent Assembly who can be said to be the founding fathers of the Constitution.

It is also proposed that a sum of Rs. 20, 000/- be granted to the Members of parliament for purchase of of conveyance, which would be recoverable within a period of five years.

Apart from the aforesaid provisions, there are certain other facilities which are also proposed to be given to the Members of Parliament by amending the Rules. It is proposed to give a constituency allowance of Rs. 1250/- per month to all Members instead of the present additional facility allowance of Rs. 1,000/- per month.

Similarly, the maximum ceilling of local telephone calls to which a Members of Parliament is entitled presently is 15. 000, is also being increased to 30.000 free local calls, with the advantage of trunk-call bills being adjusted within the monetary equivalent of the ceiling of 30,000 free local calls per annum.

[Shri H. K. L. Bhagat]

It is also proposed to provide only rent-free flat accommodation to the Members of Parliament. However, if any Member of Parliament is in occupation of a bungalow, he will have to pay the full rent. Over and above these facilities, it is proposed to provide free water and electricity to Members of Parliament up to Rs. 300/- per month.

I have already moved that this Bill as passed by the Lok Sabha be taken into consideration.

The question was proposed

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I want to speak.

श्री हुक्म देव नारायण यादव (बिहार): मानतोया हमको कुछ बोलना है ।

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Madam, I will not take more than five minutes. I will be very brief. Madam, I know why they are objecting. We all know. That is why I am trying to speak something so that we can all behave with dignity and appear as dignified individuals before the country also.

First of all, I want to draw the attention of the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to several irrationalities in the scheme of allowances. I want to draw his attention to this first before coming to the point of increasing or adding to the emoluments. For instance, many of the MPS have jointly submitted such a memorandum to the relevant people. All MPs normally, barring a few, are given enormous freedom of travelling inside the country. They can go by train wherever they want to, whenever they want to, and with a company. But, how discriminating this simple formula is, you can appreciate, if you think about the MPs from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands the MPs from Lakshadweep, the MPs from Uttar Pradesh, the MPs from the, north-Eastern States when railway connection are not there. I am surprised, despite several representations, there is nobody who seized of this problem so that no solution is yet found. In fact, we are discriminating against this set of MPs. We are telling that they cannot ask as much freedom to travel as the rest of the MPs have in the country. I want to draw the attention of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to this fact.

Second, there is another discrimination. Are we all urban people? We come in the Lok Sabha as well as to this House from rural areas also where there are no STD facilities. This also was represented that in all the telephone facilities, the Bills for trunk calls shoud be included because in all rural homes in the entire country the STD facilities are not yet available.

That also is not provided.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: It is provided.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: I have said just now that it is provided.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: If that is so, I withdraw. I am sorry.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Perhaps Nirmal Chatterjee's connection had not been given properly:

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: The third point, to which I want to draw your attention is about our T.A. rules which are archaic British rules. If you live in Trivandrum or a far off place, you get some kind of allowance. He is looking back I know. When I say this. I am safely referring to him only, not somebody else because he belongs to our party. But somebody who is in Delhi will not get any daily travelling allowance. There is scope for rationalisation here also. Then again I want to draw your attention to . . .

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): Honourable Minister belongs to Delhi.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: That is why he is so selfless. He cannot say all these things about himself. Therefore, I am representing his case.

Regarding another facility in Parliament House, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has very kindly assured us that there are some projects or some programmes for having working rooms for MPs with secretarial assistance, etc., to be integrated into perhaps our 15 year plan. In the meantime, is it not desirable that all recognised political parties in terms of Election Commission be provided with suitable offices along with secretarial assistance? For each M.P. you may not provide, but for each political party why don't you give suitable accommodation and suitable secretarial assistance so that the quality of functioning inside the Parliament improves? This is a short term thing which can be achieved immediately and that is way I am making a reference to that.

Now, I come to the most hearty aspect of it. Now, what has been proposed? Let us search our hearts. only yesterday, the Prime Minister spoke about austerity and the Members of the ruling party applauded whenever he enters the House. On such questions, should there be any deficit in approach? What have we done for ex-MPs for instance travelling facilities are to be provided to ex-MPs. I welcome that. because they are political-beings. Once they are not MPs they don't cease to be political people. Once you have honoured them, no one has any business to dishonour them after they cease to be MPs. So such provisions are welcome. But what have you done for them with regard to pensions? No upper ceiling limit is fixed? Tomorrow the working class all over the country will ask: why should there be ceiling for their pensions? They say they are also putting in 30 years of service. I do not know how my hon. friend. Mr. Sukul will react to this.

SHRI P. N. SUKUL (Uttar Pradesh): Most welcome.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Why should we provide for pensions for ourselves in this manner?

SHRI P. N. SUKUL: In the case of employees, there is relationship between the quantum of pension and their pay. Here there is no relationship. They are not comparable.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: I compare. In compare. in the case of the Government employees their pensions are always less. Here in this case, the pension is more than your salaries. That is another way of looking at it. What will the citizens of our country. the employees in our offices will tell us? They will say that since you can give the law upto yourself, you have given much more than the people who are serving you.

SHRI P. N, SUKUL: As you have said this is another way of honouring MPs including old MPs.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Old MPs will be much more honoured than the present MPs if that is what you are suggesting. Then I am sorry for it, Mr. Sukul.

Another thing to which I want to draw your attention is about Rs. 250/- which has been added to. Is it in order? I do not know which is the cause and which is the effect. Is it in order that the Ministers' salaries are increased?

Therefore, MPs emoluments are increased. I do not know. But the point is how much does an M.P. get in the course of a year? On an average, taking into acconut everything he gets Rs 40,000 to 50,000 a year. You take that into account your TAs I have taken that into account. I am a member of Public Accounts Committee. Therefore, I get more. I get Rs 60,000 a year. Others get Rs 40,000 to Rs. 50,000 (*Interruptions*).

SOME HON'BLE MEMBERS: No, no.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: I request the Hon'ble Members to get a statement from the Members Salaries and Allowances Section. They provide you this statement. (*Interruption*).

Mr. Jagesh Desai, since you are coming from Bombay, you are surely getting more than that. I have no

[Shri Nirmal Chatterjee]

doubt about that. In addition to it, every member is a member of the Consultative Committee and Consultative Committee also provide you with money. Now, I say this that is it true (*Interruption*). Kindly bear with me. You have been advised to lead an austere life. I will just recount the experience of our party people. There is nothing to hide. Of all this amount our party takes Rs. 1250 every month from us and apart from that, whatever we earn, we always have a surplus which we give. Are we therefore, living below the poverty line when we are asked to lead an austere life? The standard should be decided in terms of what the poverty line is how many people are below the poverty line, which should be realistic and on the basis of which our emoluments should be fixed. I therefore requst your good sense which pledges you for national economic development that unless you declare before the country that you are not bothered (*Interruption*).

श्री कल्पनाथ राय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : आपकी पार्टी ने लोक-सभा में क्या किया ? लोक सभा में इसको एक्सेप्ट किया या नहीं ? लोक सभा में आपकी पार्टी ने इसको स्वीकार किया है ।
(*Interruption*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Raoof Valiullah and Mr Kalpnath Rai let him speak. It is entirely his view. He has a right to speak. The Minister is quite capable to reply, There are other members also who want to speak. Please sit down. (*Interruption*).

Mr. Raoof Valiullah will you please keep quiet? I request all the Members to keep quiet. See this is a Bill which has come from the Lok Sabha. It is being passed. We are discussing it. All the Members, belonging to every party have a right to speak what they like. So, please do not interrupt. Let him make his speach Anybody else, who wants to speak, I will give him time but don't create unruly kind of scene over here on the last day. This is my final request.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Madam, I do not want to go in to detail. My appeal to the conscience of all of you who are fond of uttering words of socialism, who think in terms of the people, proportion of our population living below the poverty line to think about all the employees, of State Governments, of Central Government and of a section of which Mr. Sukul is a leader.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now please conclude.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: In the name of all of them, I request the House to reconsider and request the Parliament Affairs Minister to withdraw this Bill. Thank you Madam.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM (Tamil Nadu): Madam Deputy Chairman, on behalf of my party, I whole heartedly support all these three Bills. I also congratulate the hon. Prime Minister of this country and also the Ministers concerned for having taken up the entire responsibility of fulfilling the long-pending wish of the Members of Parliament. I have not been able to understand the speech of our hon. Member, Mr. Nirmal Chatterjee going through it line by line. Because he is a highly educated person, I am not in a position to understand his views. But even there are certain things, Madam Deputy Chairman which I would like to stress. I would like to mention to the Minister concerned through you, about two important points. One is that he has stated that the existing eight to and fro air trips for intermediate journeys will be converted into 16 single air journeys. That is all right

for persons who come from Haryana or Uttar Pradesh or some other nearby place. But we the persons coming from the southern part of the country, have to travel 1,500 miles. If we travel by train, it will take two days and for coming back it will take another two days. So we will have time to attend for only one day per week. If the present 16 single air fares are not increased at least to 24, we will not be in a position to concentrate on either the constituency affairs or family affairs or the Parliamentary affairs here. For example in this particular session, we had two intermediate journeys, whereas I have travelled four times, spending Rs. 6,000 for air journeys only. I could manage for two intermediate journeys, whereas I have purchased four tickets that means eight single tickets. So we, Members of Parliament, belonging to the southern part, coming from Hyderabad, Trivandrum, Cochin, Coimbatore or Madras, should be given at least 24 single air journeys. But you cannot discrimiate between Member and Member. Therefore. I plead that 24 single air journeys should be given to all the Members of Parliament. And if you give 24 single air journeys, it may not be fully used by all Members. It will be utilised only by persons coming from distant parts of the country. So I would like to ask our hon. Minister to consider this matter of increasing 16 single air jurneys to 24 single air journeys, whereby we can travel by air and attend to our Parliamentary work without fail, without missing even a single day.

About the second point, I really do not understand what Mr. Chatterjee says. He seems to suggest that if we give more pension for the ex-Members of Parliament, then there will be "hulla-gulla" throughout the country and lakhs and lakhs of Government employees will stand in a queue and ask Mr. Chatterjee, Why are ex-MPs given Rs. 400 or Rs. 500 as pension?" After a careful calculation, I have made some statis sics and I hope the statistics professor will accept it. Members who have put in five years will get Rs. 500 per month as pension. That is the latest position. Earlier it was Rs 3000 . Members who have put in 10 years will get Rs. 750, not more than that. Members who have put in 15 years of service will be getting only Rs 1,000. And Members who have put in 20 years of service will be getting only Rs 1250 as pension. How many Members of Parliament—I want to know from the Minister are living now in this world who have put in more than 20 years of service? Only a handful of persons. Therefore what they give us as pension is meagre, and not much as pointed out by Mr. Niraml Chatterjee. The Members who were elected to the Lok Sabha in 1977 were here only for 2 1|2 years with the blessings of Mr. Sanjiva Reddy, who was the President then, and we had to go back to our constituencies. We had put in only 2-1/2 years of service. Even that service will not be counted for pension. It will have to be five years. Therefore, I plead that this pension should be increased in such a way that after five years, for which the pension isRs. 500, for every additional year, the increase should be Rs 100. Only then the amount will be somewhat sufficient and the former Members will be happy.

With these words, I would like to request again the Minister concerned to take up the responsibility of giving more pension for MPs. Thank you.

श्री राम नरेश कुशवाहा (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीया उपसभापति जी, मैं कम से माननीय मंत्री जी को साधुवाद देता

[श्री राम नरेश कुशवाहा]

हूं कि उन्होंने घर पर कुर्सी भेजने से रोक दिया। क्योंकि जब हम रिटायर होते है तो आपके जो नौकरशाह है ये इतने बदतमीज हैं; पाजी हैं कि जो मन में आता है वह सब जोड़ कर कुर्की भेज देते हैं। मैं पिछली बार लोकसभा का मेम्बर था तीन वर्ष पहले तो 200 रूपये का टलीफोन ट्रंककाल का बिल भेज दिया। एक ही दिन में लगभग 12 सौ रूपये का घर का बिल आ गया। जब हमने चिटठी लिख कर भेजी कि हमने कहा काल की, हमें बताया जाए? जब देवरिया तक फोन नहीं मिलता तो और कहा का मिलेगा, इस बारे में आज तक जबाब नही आया हम जब रिटायर हो जायेंगे तो मिर्धा साहब भी कुर्की भेज देंगे। मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूं कि जितनी हम लाकल काल युटिलाइज करते है इतनी आप ट्रंक काल का करिय. . .

एक माननीय सदस्य : यह भी आ गया है।

श्री राम नरेश कुशवाहा : आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद। दूसरी बात यह कहना चाहता हूं कि दुनिया भर के पास आप जारी करते हैं रेल के। मैं नाम नहीं लेना चाहता। एक रेल मंत्री ने अपने एरिया के 36 औरतों को रेल पास इशु किये हुए है सोशल वर्कर के नाम से पास दिये हुए है। आप इतना कर सकते हैं कि आप भूतपूर्व संसद सदस्यों को सोशल वर्कर ही मान लीजिए। रिटायर होने के बाद संसद सदस्यों को सोशल वर्कर भी नहीं माना जाता, कितनी बेइज्जती आप करना चाहते हैं। हम लोग पालिटिकल हैं। हम लोग चारपाई पर सो कर मरना पसन्द नहीं करते हम दौड़ते हुए मरना पसन्द करते है। हम तो रेल में ही सफर करना पसन्द करते है केसरी जी आप तो रेल में सफर करना पसन्द नहीं करते। आप तो हवाई जहाज ले जाते है और हवाई जहाज में उतर कर कार में पैर रखते हैं। क्या - जरूरत है आपको रेल पास की। रेल पास की जरूरत होती है गरीब लोगों को। नौकरशाही के एजेंट यह चाहते है कि संसद सदस्य जब रिटायर हो तो वे उनके सामने आकर हाथ जोड़ कर गिड़गिडायें मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि आप तनख्वाह मत बढ़ाइये आप पेंशन 100–50 रूपये कम कर दीजीए लेकिन पालिटिकल वर्कर मान कर पास जरूर दीजिए भूतपूर्व संसद सदस्यों को। अगर यह आप नही देंगे तो फिर हम लोग रिटायर होने के बाद क्या करेंगे जो राजनीति करते हैं वे रात–दिन दौड़कर जनता की सेवा करना चाहते है। मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूं कि आप पूंजीपतियों के चक्कर में न पड़िये। नौकरशाही के चक्कर में मत पड़िये और कम से कम हम लोगों को सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता मान कर पास, रेल का पास दे दीजिए। सारे देश में यात्रा करने का पास उनको दे दीजिए। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि जो संसद में आते है या तो वे राजनीति से रिटायर होने वाले लोग आते हैं और नहीं तो आल इंडिया कम्पीटिशन करना चाहते हैं 75 परसेंट रिटायर वाले होते हैं। 25 परसेंट कम्पीटिशन करने आते है मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूं कि 75 परसेंट साल में कभी एक-आध बार तीर्थ यात्रा करने निकल जाते होंगे, या दिल्ली चले जाते होंगे और बाकी 25 परसेंट में है 15 परसेंट केसरी जी आप की तरह होंगे जो हवाई जहाज में ही घूमना पसन्द करते होंगे। हवाई जहाज से उतरे तो कार में और कार से उतरे तो हवाई जहाज में 10 परसेंट पालिटिकल वर्कर है जो इसका उपयोग कर सकेंगे। मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूं केसरी जी कि आप यह पाप मत करिये। भगत जी से भी कहता हूं कि आप वगला भगत न बन कर सही भगत बनिये। पूंजीपति के एजेंट बन कर गरीब कार्यकर्ता की बात समझिये पालिटिकल वर्कर किस तरह से जिन्दा रहते हैं यह आप शायद जानते नहीं हैं।

उपसभापति : आप वाइंड करिये। दो तीन दफा आप एकही बात को कह चुके हैं।

श्री राम नरेश कुशवाहा : अगर अभी इस बात को मान लेते है तो मैं अभी भगत जी को बधाई दे दूगा।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Ghulam Rasool Matto.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO (Jammu and Kashmir): Madam, I have got only one or two points to make on this. The facility for rail travel is available to all the people. But the people in Jammu and Kashmir have to come all the way by bus to the nearest railhead, that is, Jammu. So, we must be givan some concession or compensation for that. We must be given compensation for the road Journey that we have to perform because we have to come from Srinagar to Jammu and then alone we can utilise the rail travel facility.

Secondly, Madam, there is an anomaly here which can perhaps be removed by an executive order also and it is this: When we are coming for the session with our wives, we are allowed first class, but our wives are allowed the economy class only. So, our wives have to sit in one corner and we have to sit elsewhere.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, it is very unfortunate and it is wrong to separate a husband from his wife;

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: I would, therefore, request the honourable Minister to take this into consideration.

Then, Madam, I understand that the rules regarding telephone, etc. are going to be framed. By what time are they going to be framed? That is all. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Hukmdeo Narayan Yadav.

श्री प्यारे लाल खंडेलवाल (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदया, मुझे भी बोलना है ।

उपसभापति : श्री हुक्मदेव नारायण यादव, अब आप बोलिये।

श्री प्यारे लाल खंडेलवाल : महोदया, हमारी पार्टी से अभी कोई नहीं बोला है। मुझे बोलना है।

उपसभापति : श्री यादव को पहले बोलने दीजिये।

श्री हुक्मदेव नारायण यादव : उपसभापति महोदया, इस विधेयक पर आज अंतिम दिन जो बहस चल रही है, माननीय सदस्यगणों का मूड ऐसा नहीं है कि इस पर बहस हो। मैं इसका विरोधी नहीं हूं, लेकिन इस पर बोलना चाहता हूं। मैंने आपसे कहा था कि मैं इस पर जरूर बोलूंगा एक संसद-सदस्य होने की हैसियत से जब मैं इस विधेयक पर विचार करता हूं तो मैं इस पर सोलह आने सहमत होता हूं लेकिन जब मैं आपने आप के चेहरे को देखता हूं तो मेरी आत्मा कहती है कि कुछ न कुछ इसका विरोध जरूर करूं। मैं आज संसद सदस्य हूं कल को नहीं रहूंगा मुझे माफ कर देना आप में से बहुत से ऐसे लोग होंगे जिनको परमात्मा ने काफी दिया होगा। उनके पास परमात्मा की दी हुई सम्पत्ति होगी, सब कुछ होगा। लेकिन परमात्मा ने जिस घर में मुझे पैदा किया है, जब मैं दिल्ली में आया तो मेरी मां जिस हैसियत में मरी थी, आज मेरी पत्नी की हैसियत उससे दुस गुना ज्यादा है । मेरे पिता जिस हैसियत में थे उससे पचास गुना ज्यादा मेरी हैसियत है। मेरे पापा के तन पर पूरा कपड़ा भी नहीं था मेरे पास उनसे चार गुना, पांच गुना ज्यादा कपड़े है और मैं आज संसद सदस्य के रूप में आपके सामने खड़ा हूं लेकिन मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि हमारी यह कामना की भूख कहा तक जाएगी? मैं समझता हूं कि यह तो निरन्तर बढ़ती जाएगी भगवान ने गीता में भी ऐसा कहा है । हमारी भोग की कामना अगर बढ़ती गई, भोग की इच्छा बढ़ती गई तो इसकी कोई सीमा नहीं है। यह कामना कभी पूरी नहीं हो सकती है। दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि जैसा कि श्री निर्मल चटर्जी ने कहा है कि संसद सदस्य होने के नाते हमें दूसरे कानून भी बनाने पड़ते हैं। अगर हम अपने उपर नियंत्रण नहीं रखेंगे तो दूसरे राज कर्मचारी हमारे मामले को लेकर बात उठा सकते है। सरकार चलाने में दो सत्ताएं काम करती हैं एक है राजसत्ता और दूसरी है नैतिक सत्ता, मोरल

[श्री हुक्मदेव नारायण यादव]

पावर । मैं समझता हूं कि नैतिक सत्ता के बिना कोई भी आदमी राजसत्ता को नहीं संचालित कर सकता है। सभी कानून सब के लिए समान रूप से बराबर होने चाहिए . . (व्यवधान)। आप मुझे बोलने नहीं देंगे तो मैं तब भी बोलूंगा। जिस घर में हमारा जन्म हुआ है उसके संस्कार हमें प्रेरित करते हैं कि मैं इस संबंध में ये बातें कहूं . . (व्यवधान)। मैं अपने दिल की बात कह रहा हूं ।

महोदया, मैं फिर कहना चाहता हूं कि मैं श्री कुशवाहा जी की बात के साथ सहमत हूं कि हम लोग संसद सदस्य होने के साथ-साथ राननैतिक कार्यकर्ता भी हैं। कल को हम संसद सदस्य नहीं रहेंगे तो सामाजिक जीवन में रहेंगे। आप हमें पैसा मत दीजिये, लेकिन रेलवे पास देने में आपका क्या बिगड़ता है? रेलवे का पास देने में आपका कुछ नहीं बिगड़ता है। आप यह रेलवे का पास दीजिये। फर्स्ट क्लास का मत दीजिये. ए०सी० का मत दीजिये, लेकिन सैकन्ड कलास का टू टायर और तीन टायर का पास दीजिये। भारत जर्नी के लिए इस प्रकार का पास देना बहुत

6 P.M. जरूरी है। तो मैं सोचूगा कि वह ज्यादा अच्छा है बनिस्वत ज्यादा देने के। मैं अंतिम बात आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि आप पैसा क्यों देते हैं।

उपसभापति : एक ही बार आप निवेदन कर दीजिये।

श्री हुक्मदेव नारायण यादव : मैं यही कह रहा हूं कि आप संसद सदस्यों को काम करने की सुविधा दीजिये, पैसा मत दीजिये। आप उनको पोस्ट कार्ड दे दीजिये, लिफाफा दे दीजिये, लेटर पैड दे दीजिये। एक मेम्बर अपने हिसाब से जितनी भी चिटठी लिखना चाहे उसको लिखने दीजिये, जितने भी पोस्ट कार्ड भेजना चाहे भेजने दीजिये इससे वह अपनी कांस्टिट्एंसी की सेवा करेगा, लोगों की सेवा करेगा। लेकिन वह नहीं दीजिएगा वह कब तक खरीदता रहेगा लिफाफे और पोस्ट कार्ड, पैसे से खरीदकर भेजेगा तो कितना भेज पायेगा। आप हजार रुपया दे रहे हैं उसको जेब में रखकर वे खायेंगे, उड़ायें । इसलियेगे मैं हाथ जोड़कर यह प्रार्थना करता हूं समय नहीं है लेकिन मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं, कि मैं इस चीज का मूल रूप से विरोधी हूं। मैं चाहता हूं कि संसद सदस्यों की कार्य करने की क्षमता जो है वह अधिक बढ़े और उसके लिये आप उनके साधन बढ़ाये लेकिन यह पैसों की बढ़ोतरी का रास्ता मत निकालिये। आपने अगर इस संसद के अन्दर यह किया तो जैसा कि अभी श्री निर्मल चटर्जी ने बात उठाई है कि यह बिन्दु देश के सामने उठेगा और अगर लोग इसका विरोध करेंगे तो इसका उत्तरदायित्व, इसकी जिम्मेदारी आपकी होगी और आप पछतायेंगे क्योंकि सत्ता आपके हाथ में है।

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, it is very unfortunate that this Bill has evoked so much discussion All parties, I thought, would observed some code of conduct. For the first time I am critical of my friend, Mr. Nirmal Chatterjee, because to avoid such a discussion regarding the emoluments and parks of MPs, I suggested a meeting of all party leaders in which all party representatives were present, and there was an agreement on the nature of the Bill. We wanted to avoid a discussion in the House. But it is unfortunate that it turned into a debate, and I am also forced to offer some comments.

One reason why we wanted to avoid a discussion is that there is a general impression in the country that the MPs are 'Maharajas'. I also thought like that before becoming an MP. But, Madam, today if you analyse the situation really, honest MPs are really hard pressed. They are not able to ....(*Interruptions*) And many of the MPs get much less than what the MLAs get in their own States. For example, in Andhra Pradesh MLAs are getting more than what we get here. It is not a question of money alone. It is a question of

the facilities which are required for an MP to function effectively as a representative of the people.

Then, what are we clamouring for? It is not a question of Rs. 500 more or Rs. 400 more, because on that money itself we have to pay income-tax and all that. If I speak for myself, for the last six months my salary bill is 'nil'. It is adjusted against excess telephone calls, or excess furniture rent and all that. MPs have to entertain people coming from their constituencies. Dozens of people come to them and stay with them. They have to maintain two establishments, one at their native place and the other in Delhi. I know that many MPs eagerly open their dak in the morning to find an invitation for lunch or dinner. I do not want to speak disparagingly of them. But this is the situation for many of them. Therefore, it is very unfortunate to think and argue that their emoluments are being increased to a great extent. But I plead with the Minister also that there should be some more facilities for the MPs—for at least those who are sincerely working. I have seen in the United States how the American Congressmen are having big offices with a dozen staff members working round the clock, attending to their dak, going round their constituencies, and all that. Here also I have seen the CPM MPs, including late Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu, maintaining an office, keeping 3 PAs to help him. We are unable to do that because we have no assistance. That is why we are not able to function properly. There must be some assistance. There is no one to attend to the dak, no one to attend to telephone calls; we are very much handicapped. Therefore, it is essential that at least a PA should be provided, or at least a part of the PA's salary is borne by the Government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Stenographer.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: That's what I mean. On the pension, an objection has been raised. You cannot compare the MP's pension with that of the Government servants because the pension of Government servants is governed by the cost of living index. Here we are fixing an amount permanently depending on the length of service. Unless we revise it, it remains the same. Now, raising it to Rs. 500/- or Rs. 800/- is very little. Why should you grudge the old man who has served the country this amount of Rs. 1000/- or Rs. 800/-?

I fully endorse the view that after they retire, there must be some facility given to them in the share of railway pass to enable them to go round, or at least to come to Delhi occasionally to meet old friends and see the Parliament. A pass can be given at least once or twice a year. Now the Railways are giving passes to freedom fighters. Similarly, it should be there for the MPs also.

I have one more suggestion which may be unpopular with some of my friends here. The present rule is that you can sign only once in a fortnight. If you are not present in Delhi, even then you get the D.A. Daily presence is not necessary. In my view, it is dishonesty. There should be signatures every day. D.A. should be paid on the basis of daily attendance. Some stay away from Delhi and say that they have been present and draw the D.A. It is dishonesty. I insist that this should be on the basis of daily signatures. Rules should be amended like that. We cannot encourage dishonesty on the part of the M.Ps.

श्री प्यारे लाल खंडेलवाल : उपसभापती महोदया, सभी पक्षों के नेताओं में बैठ कर यह फैसला हुआ था कि बिल पर कोई विशेष चर्चा नहीं की जाए, एकमत से पास कर दिया जाए। अच्छा होता अगर यह फैसला हम लोग मान लेते। माननीय सदस्य उपेन्द्र जी ने कहा है उससे सहमति करते हुए दो बातें कहना चाहता हूं। एक तो ससंद सदस्यों

[श्री त्यारे लाल खंडेलवाल]

में किसी प्रकार का भेद सरकार को कानून के द्वारा नहीं डालना चाहिये। मैं एक बात याद दिलाना चाहता हूं कि जो संसद भंग कर दी गई थी समय के पूर्व उन संसद सदस्यों के लिए इस बिल मे कोई प्रावधान नहीं हैं। जब वे पूर्व संसद सदस्य हैं तो उनके लिए भी पेंशन का प्रावधान होना चाहिये। दूसरी बात मैं जोर देकर कहना चाहता हूं माननीय कुशवाहा जी ने जो बात कहीं है कि पूर्व संसद सदस्यों को यात्रा सुविधा निश्चित रूप से उपलब्ध होनी चाहिये. क्योंकि वे राजनीतिक और सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता हैं। अगर वे संसद में नहीं रहे फिर भी उनके पास जनता आती है वे जनता के बीच में जाते है जनता की समस्याओं के लिए संघर्ष करते हैं जनता भी उनके क्षेत्र की कोई न कोई जन समस्याओं को लेकर उनसे मिलती है। उनको जाना पड़ता है। वे अपने प्रदेश की राजधानियों में जाते है। उनको दिल्ली आना पड़ता है। आज कोई भी संसद सदस्य मैं समझता हूं कि 99 प्रतिशत संसद सदस्य पुराने या जो रिटायर हो जायेंगे वे ऐसे नही हैं जो अपनी जेब खर्च कर के दिल्ली, लखनऊ, भोपाल या हैदराबाद जा सकें। उनके लिए कोई न कोई व्यवस्था सरकार को करनी चाहिये। मैंने इस सम्बन्ध में पत्र लिखा है बहुत पहले संसदीय कार्य मन्त्री को, प्रधानमंत्री जी को और रेल मंत्री जी को। अभी नही कुछ महीने पहले मैंने यह मांग की है कि भूतपूर्व संसद-सदस्य लगातार यह मांग करते आ रहे हैं कि उन्हे यात्रा की सुविधा रेल में प्रथम श्रेणी के स्थाई पास के रूप मे दी जाए। इस बात का उल्लेख इस नये कानून में नही है। मैं चाहता हूं कि माननीय संसदीय कार्य मन्त्री इस बात का इस सदन में उल्लेख करें और बताएं कि क्या यह सुविधा वे देने वाले हैं। मैं इस बात से सहमत हूं कि संसद सदस्यों को डाक आदि की ज्यादा सुविधा मिलनी चाहिये। हम सब इस बात को जानते हैं कि हम को रोज पचासों पत्र लिखने होते है इस लिए इस सुविधा का और विस्तार किया जाए। दूसरी बात मैं फिर से जोर दे कर कहना चाहता हूं कि 1971 में और 1980 में जो लोकसभा भंग हुई थी उन पूर्व संसद सदस्यों के लिए भी पेंशन का प्रावधान होना चाहिये।

SHRI S. W. DHABE (Maharashtra): Madam Deputy Chairman, I entirely endorse what Mr. Upendra has said. It was decided that there should not be much discussion on this point and we should pass the Bill without discussion. But as the discussion has started, I want to place before you two thing. It will be hypocritical for the Members of Parliament to ask for facilities for their office and other facilities and say that if the salary is increased, it is bed. You avail of the facility or you don't avail of the facility and behave like a *sadhu* and come without clothes. You say that you want telephone, secretariat service and a big office at the cost of exchequer. They want all those facilities at the cost of the people. Madam, the tragedy is that there is contradiction in our life and we do not subscribe to the view that Parliament must be effectively functioning. If the Parliament has to effectively function, Members of Parliament should be given sufficient facilities to do their work properly.

Mr. Upendra has also said this that there is no arrangement here for any guest house or any establishment where our visitors can go and stay. In Karnataka, they have got arrangements for the visitors. They can go and stay separately and they are not required to stay in the houses of the MLAs. Otherwise, there will be about 25 people staying with the Members every day. So, arrangement has to be made in this respect. Apart from this, I have got two or three suggestions to make. One is a very valid point raised about Lakshadweep and Assam areas where there are no railways. In Maharashtra Assembly, MLAs can go by air by having the difference between the railway fare and the air fare. If such a facility is made available to the MPs, then they can pay the difference and go by air. That will not cost much and the problem of these areas can be solved. Secondly I

would like to suggest that it is very difficult to have the secretarial services. We have to pay Rs. 500 per month to run the office of the Congress (S). That is the expenditure which the MPs have to incour. Looking into all these matters, I suggest that the secretarial services should be improved. In fact, the MLAs are provided with PAs who can handle the dak and other things. And there is a thinking which I welcome that individual Members should be provided with flats for office work and where they can function effectively.

If the Parliament has to function very effectively, it is very essential that an atmosphere must be created for them for doing their work properly.

Lastly, I have a suggestion to make that the Members who retire from here should be given railway passes. Whether you give pension or not is a different matter. But railway pass is essential to maintain their Status I was told than old MP was standing in a queue for getting a 3-tier second-class ticket and he had to struggle to get a ticket. The Members are the representatives of the people. It is not that we are getting everything for ourselves. It is for the functions to be done. It has been accepted all over the world and by the parliamentary institutions in the countries like the United Kingdom, the USA and even Sri Lanka that proper facilities should be given to the representatives of the people. And in that direction, I must say the hon. Minister has taken a step. I welcome it and I endorse the Bill.

श्री पशुपति नाथ सुकुल : उपसभापति महोदया, दरअसल तो इस बिल के ऊपर कोई बहस नहीं होनी चाहिए थी जो लोक सभा ने पास कर दिया है। लेकिन मुझे यह देख कर कि हमारे कुछ साथियों ने जैसे निर्मल चटर्जी बगैरह ने— (व्यवधान) मैं इसका समर्थन करता हूं।

SHRI H. K. L BHAGAT: Madam, I am grateful to the hon. Members for the view-points which they have expressed. And I have regard and respect for each one of the hon. Members. I know that they mean well. I am particularly grateful to two or three hon. Members. Mr P. Upendra began it, and the other hon. Members, Shri Dhabe and Shri Pyarelal Khandelwal and others said it. They made it clear that there was some discussion.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mohanarangam also.

SHRI H. K. L BHAGAT: I am sorry my friend, Mr. Mohanarangam also. I am not talking so much of the support to the Bill. I am talking of the fact which they have said there that there was discussion. It was suggested to me by hon. Member, Mr. Upendra, that the leaders of all the Opposition Groups should be invited for a discussion, Consequently, I had called the leaders of the Groups in the Lok Sabha as well as Rajya Sabha and we had a discussion. Now I would not have said it, if this thing has not been brought out and if hon. Member Mr. Chatterjee had not raised it and said this that his party does not agree to this. Therefore, I might not have said it, I would not have brought this and I would have contented myself otherwise.

Now, I just wish to say that I do not want to enter into controversy of this party and that party. No useful purpose can be served by it. But I do wish to point out to the hon. Members that a meeting took place with the representatives of the various political parties. I do not wish to say that the Members felt, as some of them have said fairly openly, that they expected somemore rationalisa- ... financial burden on the State. They

[Shri H. K. L. Bhagat]

wanted more facilities for the proper functioning of the Members of Parliament, as they have openly said in this House, and they included the leaders of your party. It is not that the leaders of your party wanted no facilities or wanted only lesser facilities. That will be against facts. Secondly I want to point out to you the fact that this Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha without any discussion unanimously without any dissenting voice should make you fell that it was a unanimous affair. This is not to say that there are no snags in this Bill. But as some of us always play to the gallery, I cannot criticise you for that. If you say that in relation to Government employees, in relation to their pension it is discrimination, you are a political leader you are a political figure and you will do that because you are playing to the gallery as some of us do. But the matter is not relevant because the MPs. stand on a different position and I agree with many hon. Members who said that these are the people who spend their entire lives in public service. In a way all of us do that, let us not forget that. Let us remember we are permanently temporary. We are permanent in the sense that there is no age-limit. We are temporary because we may come and go.

AN HON. MEMBER: Ministers are casual workers.

SHRI H. K. L BHAGAT: People serve Parliament for a number of years. If they get a pension of Rs. 1000 or Rs. 1250 nothing wrong. And the Government Servants have a much more understanding of this situation in the country. If my hon. friend does not mind my saying so then may I say that they also understand that they also must have just a little bread to eat , nothing wrong in that.

One point which has been made by almost all the Members is about the rail facilities of the ex-M. Ps. Almost all of them have raised this point. I will take up this matter again with the Railway Minister later and the Finance Ministry. I can not give an assurance that it will be done. But I will take up this matter. Hon Member, Shri Khandelwal, and a number of others have written to me and the Railway Minister. This point was discussed also. Unfortunately we did not find it possible to agree. I will take up this matter minutes more.

Hon Member Mr. Chatterjee said that there is discrimination. Now he has...

श्री प्यारे लाल खंडेलवाल : रेल मंत्री जी का कहना है कि संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय ही यह काम कर सकता है। ऐसा उन्होंने मुझे कहा है।

SHRI H. K. L BHAGAT: No, no. When I am saying that I will take it up again, you can believe me. I can assure you that I took it up earlier also. I am not blaming them. It was not agreed to. I am fully responsible for all the decisions that have been taken because it is collective responsibility.

I wish to say another thing. Hon. Member Mr. Chatterjee he thought of Delhi. Now he said that Delhi people do not get any travelling allowance. I am grateful to him for the concern that he has shown for Delhi people, Now, there is a rule since 1954 that people who come from distant places by air in certain circumstances for official duties, get one-fourth as travelling allowance of the air ticket. Now, the people who come from distant places. they get more. The people who come from places closer they get less. Do you want me to reduce the travelling allowance of the M.Ps. from Bengal from Madras, from Kerala from Gujarat, from Maharashtra and all those who travel

from different places? Rationally one can point out that the question of rationalisation of travel facilities can be examined. But I am saying that the Government has no intention what so ever of discriminating between one M. P. and the other. Now then...

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: I used the term discrimination on the Andaman and Nicobar side and not the Eastern States. I say the same words.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: With regard to Andaman and Nicobar we providing steamer facilities. Wherever there is no air-link what can the Government do what should the Government do? As the services go on expending they will get the facilities wherever there are steamers they will get the facilities by steamers. Another thing I want to say. I have got very great feeling for the poor people of India for whom some of our hon. members like Mr. Hukam Dev Narayan Yadav spoke. And Yadavji also. He said if I am not wrong don't give us money, give us facilities. If you see the Bill in terms of actual money, it is only Rs. 500; Rs. 250 and Rs. 250 and that I think you do need the money. Don't you: Each one of us needs it. Secondly. I was saying that if you see in this Bill the emphasis more on the facilities than on actual payment of money. It is in terms of electricity water free flat and number of other facilities. Intermediate journeys have been increase to 16 and also the number of telephone calls. So the emphasis in this Bill is on facilities Mr. Chatterjee was talking about the telephone; probably he has not heard me with attention and I said that the trunk call bills within the parameter of 30,000 calls will be decided. I said it clearly.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Sometimes his telephone does not work; his receiver does not work.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Mr. Chatterjee also brought about another point and I have to set the record straight. He brought in the question of accommodation for political parties and facilities to be given. I can understand his anxiety for his raising this point which was to give some satisfaction to some friends from other political groups about which I may tell him that the matter has been settled amicably between all concerned and the matter is over already. Secondly, political parties are not governed by the Salary, Allowances and pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill. So I would respectfully say that what he said was totally irrelevant. Probably he did not know that the matter has been settled. And to put the records I am saying it.

Other hon. Members also have given suggestions. I have said it and would admit—I would not say that there is no snag. There is a view that what has been done is not enough and that looking to the conditions in the country, something more should have been done. Another point made was that we are giving it to MPs. because we are giving it to the Ministers. My senior colleague, Shri Chavan, will say about that Bill but this is not so that because we are giving to Ministers, we are giving to MPs. When earlier there was a revision in the case of MPs., it was not done for the Ministers. In fact. it has not been done for Ministers for a long time. Actually the Ministers in terms of actual payment have been getting less than MPs. leaving facilities apart. So I would say that I am very much enlightened by the discussion in the House and I had thought that what we had agreed to outside, we keep it there. But some members thought it fit to raise it here and I thought I would put the record straight.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: At no stage, to keep the record straight. it was agreed. Secondly, about office accommodation, you have not answered to my point and you said that

[Shri Nirmal Chatterjee]

it does not relate to the parties. We appreciate that. To remind you of the Anti-Defection Bill, there was no provision of parties in any of the Bills. Here for the first time we introduced it. Similarly I wanted accommodation—not only accommodation but I also asked for certain facilities for the parties.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: You knew that Lok Dal was being evicted and you are getting their room and you still joined in the walkout... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: You are not trying to understand my point.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up the clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 8 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Madam, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE SALARY AND ALLOWANCES OF LEADERS OF OPPOSITION IN PARLIAMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1985

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Madam, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Madam, this Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held yesterday.

The motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I feel, since the Bill relating to the salary etc. of Members has been passed, they should not walk out but they should stay on and listen to what the Minister has to say about Bill relating to Opposition Leaders.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Nobody will get it. What is the use?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Madam, this Bill is a sequel to the amendment to the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952, which has been passed by the Lok Sabha and which is going to be considered by the House. I request that the Bill may be considered and passed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up the clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Madam, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was proposed.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Madam, I would like to clarify that nobody is going to get it. There